



ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL (RPC)
held in the ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOKSDOWN
on 30 April 2018 at 1930

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Mahoney (Chairman)	✓		
Councillor Botten	✓		
Councillor Bound (Borough Councillor)	✓		
Councillor Hendon		✓	
Councillor Lovett	✓		
Councillor Mason	Arrived during item18/108		
Councillor Payne	✓		
Councillor How	✓		
Councillor Harris	✓		

Clerk:

Martin Whittaker

In attendance:

Michelle Biggs, Rooksdown Community Association

18/106 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Hendon and Payne gave apologies.

18/107 To receive and note any declarations of pecuniary interest and requests for dispensation in items to be discussed

None.

18/108 To discuss the [BDBC boundary review](#) and consider a response by 7 May

The review is to equalise the number of people represented by each Borough Councillor, and to ensure suitable representation for natural communities within the Borough.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- Rooksdown is forecast in 2023 as having a population 69% greater than would be the average for representation by a single councillor.
- The options for Rooksdown are:
 - to continue to be represented by a single councillor, to be elected every 4 years
 - to join with suitable neighbouring areas and be represented by 3 councillors, to be elected in rotation
- The characteristics of Rooksdown are:
 - It has a natural boundary on each side:
 - The A339 to the south
 - The hospital and the A340 to the north and east

- Rooksdown Lane and Weybrook Park Golf Club to the north and west
 - “The Spinney”, a double line of mature beech trees, originally marking the boundary of the old Park Prewett Hospital, surrounding the central contiguous part of the parish
 - There are only two major accesses to Rooksdown: The Avenue from the east, and Rooksdown Avenue from the southwest
- The housing is all of a similar age: built or converted in the last 25 years
- The population is considerably younger than is typical for the area
- Rooksdown is currently served by a single parish council, a single community association and a single borough councillor, leading to a strong sense of identity; the Rooksdown football club, Rooksdown Women’s Institute and school (Rooksdown Campus) also have strong local identities.
- The advantages of keeping a single councillor are:
 - An opportunity to rationalise the ward boundaries to emphasise Rooksdown as a natural community, for example by:
 - Including the Squirrel Wood development in the ward,
 - Removing the Sherborne Fields development (on the other side of the A340) and Nightingale View (on the other side of the hospital): these communities do not tend to self-identify as part of Rooksdown
- The opportunities of moving to 3-member representation are:
 - To increase the possibility of multi-party representation, which may suit some residents better
 - To decrease reliance on the effectiveness of a single representative.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Lovett, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to respond to the review asking for Rooksdown to continue to be represented by a single borough councillor. The response would be based on the above points. The draft would be circulated to all members for comment and finalised by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

18/109 Planning applications

None

18/110 Chairman to close meeting

The meeting was closed at 20.35 pm.